

jungle near Hwehka in the Jade Mines but had no gun with me at the time.

**Collocalia fuciphaga** subsp.? Himalayan Swiftlet.

In three successive years these birds have appeared round Myitkyina in February and have not been observable at any other time. All these visitations coincided with local heavy rain and unsettled weather and probably they were driven down from the hills. The dates were:

1933. February 10-13.

1934. February 17-26.

1935. February 18-22.

In the 1934 visitation I obtained both *brevirostris* and *pellos*, fighting low over my garden. In late March 1935 I also saw a number in very cold, rainy weather feeding low over Fort Hertz.

MYITKYINA.

June 9, 1935.

J. K. STANFORD,

Indian Civil Service.

## XXV.—NOTES ON SOME BIRDS OBSERVED BETWEEN YATUNG AND GYANTSE, TIBET.

**Casarca ferruginea.** The Ruddy Sheldrake.

These birds were observed in large numbers between Dochen Lake 14,600 ft. and Gyantse 13,100 ft. down the rivers. Several flights of up to 12 birds were seen but most of them were in pairs, some with broods of from 5 to 8 ducklings. On a Marsh about 5 miles from Kala 14,200 ft. after a bursting chase of 200 ft. I was able to catch one youngster out of a family of 5. It was still covered with down. Except for the pairs with broods these duck were exceedingly tame, and, mounted, I was able to approach to within 15 ft. of them without their taking fright. At Kala in the evening they were all in the fields of young crops.

**Mergus merganser orientalis.** The Eastern Goosander.

On 15th June after climbing up a hill to about 15,000 ft. from Tuna I surprised a pair of these birds which had been sitting amongst some bare rocks. They circled round quite close to me two or three times giving vent to their peculiar cry and then flew off rapidly towards a marsh some 400 ft. below. I saw another single bird 2 days later winging its way rapidly up the Tumbayung River.

**Anser indicus.** The Bar-headed Goose.

On 16th June near some warm springs about 3 miles north of Tuna 18 of these birds were congregated on the bank of a large pool. I was able to approach to within about 120 ft. of them before they took fright. They then flew up and circled round for

about 5 minutes before finally retiring in the direction of Dochen Lake. Being short of meat I fired with my .355 Mannlicher into the head of the phalanx and by some miracle hit one through the neck. I saw no sign of any nesting here as they do on Rhamtso Lake.

**Grus nigricollis.** The Black-necked Crane.

Two pairs of these beautiful birds were seen. They have a similar cry to that of the Sarus Crane. I did not have an opportunity to study them for any length of time. Neither pair appeared to have any brood, though I was told that one pair had a nest in Dochen Lake somewhere.

**Gypaëtus barbatus grandis.** The Lämmergeyer.

Several of these magnificent vultures were seen cruising around, one over the Phari Plain about 15,000 ft., another in the gorges near Samoda, while a third I noticed sitting on the ground in the Kala Plain. I approached this latter one, mounted, as it seemed to be engaged in a meal, when I got within 150 ft. it flew off. Its meal had consisted of the very dried skinny remains of a Tibetan monk or pilgrim who had evidently died of starvation or exposure some 6 weeks previously. Except for some parched skin and hair in one or two places there remained only the skull and skeleton, not much of a meal even for a kite or hawk far less for a Lämmergeyer!

**Columba leuconota gradaria.** The Tibetan Snow-Pigeon.

Several of these birds flew down on to the track in front of us from the cliffs between Gautsa and Phari at a height of about 13,600 ft. They were exceedingly tame and seemed to realise that the presence of some ponies on the track meant fresh food for themselves. These birds are very pretty to watch in flight.

**Columba rupestris turkestanica.** The Blue Hill-Pigeon.

Round most of the villages through which we passed between 13,000 ft. and 15,000 ft. these birds were as common as the blue-rock pigeon round the Indian village. Young corn and dung seemed to be their staple diet.

**Corvus coronoides intermedius.** The Himalayan Jungle Crow.

Two pairs were seen between Gautsa and Phari quite close to the place where the Tibetan snow-pigeon referred to above were seen.

**Corvus corax tibetanus.** The Himalayan Raven.

A pair was observed near the rest house at Phari 14,600 ft. and another pair near Tuna about the same height. Several singletons have also been seen along the route beyond. They are enormous birds and comparatively tame and intelligent looking.

**Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax.** The Himalayan Red-billed Chough.

These birds have been seen on practically every march since leaving Yatung. They were breeding at the time and consequently no large flocks were about.

I discovered two nests, one in a loose earth and stone conglomerate cliff about 40 ft. above a bend in the Tumbayung River and another in a rock cliff close to some painted idols at Saugong. Both, which, judging by the noise when the parent birds returned with food, contained well-grown youngsters. No yellow beaked or Alpine chough were seen at all.

**Pica pica** subsp. ? Magpie.

Large black and white Magpies are common between 13,000 ft. and 13,500 ft. They fly about the cultivated fields and gardens and sit on rocks as there are few trees about. I noticed what I took to be a magpie's nest, very similar to that of the English Magpie, in a small thorn tree about 7 miles from Gyantse.

**Upupa epops saturatus.** The Tibetan Hoopoe.

Seen at Yatung 10,000 ft. in the Agency Garden. One solitary bird seen feeding on insects at 14,000 ft. in the Kala Plain near a dry ravine in some low hills. Several others seen at Gyantse 13,000 ft. To the ordinary observer they are indistinguishable from the Hoopoes seen in India.

BRITISH TRADE AGENCY,

GYANTSE, TIBET.

June 29, 1935.

R. K. M. BATTYE,

CAPTAIN.

XXVI.—A LARGE MUGGER (*CROCODILUS PALUSTRIS* LESSON) FROM BIKANER—A CORRECTION.

With reference to my letter of the 10th February 1934, which you so kindly published on pages 493-4 of your issue, vol. xxxvii, No. 2, dated the 15th August 1934, I am to state that the heading given to it i.e. 'A large Mugger (*Crocodilus palustris* Lesson) from Bikaner' gives the impression that the animal under reference was shot in Bikaner territory; whilst, that is not the case. It was shot in Kheri, United Provinces. I am sorry, this was not made clear in my letter. But although, this information, I am afraid is rather late, yet I thought you should be informed of the correct place where the Mugger came from.

Furthermore, it was obtained right inland, not far from the foot of the Himalayas and, therefore, the Estuary Crocodile (*C. porosus*) should, of course, not be confused with the specimen in question, though from the scientific point of view and as a matter of general interest measurements of *C. porosus* would also be welcome.

BIKANER.

May 14, 1935.

THE SECRETARY TO THE HEIR-

APPARENT OF BIKANER.